



Illinois Coalition On Donation

News

Talk to your family about organ & tissue donation

For immediate release

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‘DONATE LIFE’ EVENTS THROUGHOUT ILLINOIS PROMOTE ORGAN/TISSUE DONATION IN APRIL

CHICAGO, IL. (MARCH 21, 2003) — The following programs and campaigns will take place throughout Illinois to promote organ and tissue donation awareness during National Donate Life Month in April:

Statewide

All Illinois drivers education instructors will receive a letter, a Donate Life bumper sticker and information about the “Share your life. Share your decision.” program. The Illinois Coalition education program was developed in conjunction with Illinois law enacted in 1998 that encourages schools that maintain grades 9 and 10 to offer at least one unit of instruction about organ and tissue donation.

The National Association of Theatre Owners of Illinois will run movie trailers on more than 700 screens at 95 theaters, featuring Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White along with Olympian and liver transplant recipient Chris Klug to encourage donation. The theater owners’ association has partnered to promote donor awareness in its theaters for nearly 10 years.

Chicago metropolitan

- The National Kidney Foundation of Illinois is campaigning for awareness in the Pilsen and Cicero communities with 12-year-old Carlos, a Cicero boy who recently received a kidney transplant. Carlos and his family are featured on posters that include a poem written by Carlos’ father. The posters will be personally delivered to community centers, physician offices, businesses and other locations on April 4.
- The Gift of Hope African-American Task Force will promote donor awareness at the 2002 Expo for Today’s Black Woman, April 4-6 at McCormick Place.
- Family members of organ and tissue donors will join Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White as he throws out the first pitch for “Donor Awareness Day” with the Chicago White Sox Game on April 5.

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- The Chicago Fire join White, U.S. Health and Human Services Region V Director Corey Hoze and Illinois Coalition members to announce Illinois' "Donate Life!" campaign at a news conference April 7 at The Westin Michigan Avenue Hotel. Downtown businesses and landmark buildings promoting the campaign throughout April will be announced. Chicago Fire players and team mascot Sparky will be on hand to autograph signed donor cards and help promote awareness.
- Secretary White will make a second announcement at a news conference scheduled for April 21 in Chicago.
- Every Friday during April, volunteers donning "Donate Life" hats and T-shirts will hand out donor awareness information on State Street, Michigan Avenue, near the Harold Washington Library and outside the James R. Thompson Center.
- The Chicago Fire Department will provide posters, donor cards and donation information at its firehouses during April.
- The 7-Eleven Wiliana Franchise Owners Association, representing owners of more than 200 7-Eleven stores in the region, will display donor awareness posters and brochures at its stores in April. For the third consecutive year, 7-Eleven also will collect donations at counter canisters to raise funding for public education programs about organ and tissue donation.
- Organ Transplant Support (OTS), a Naperville-based organization for donor families and transplant recipients, will host its 13th annual Tree Planting Ceremony and Dedication at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, April 27, at Naperville Central High School and Naper Settlement in Naperville. Several hundred donor family members and transplant recipients from throughout the state attend this annual event. For more information, contact OTS at 630/527-8640.
 - Donor awareness materials are available at local businesses throughout Naperville.

Throughout Illinois

In Bloomington:

- At an 8 a.m. breakfast program on April 25, Secretary of State Jesse White will present awards to winners of an essay/poetry contest on "Life Goes On...The Importance of Organ & Tissue Donation" for high school students in DeWitt, Livingston and McLean counties. The Jesse White Tumblers will perform.

In Bureau County:

- Hospital staff and coroners in Bureau and LaSalle counties will be honored at a breakfast program on April 22 for their work with Gift of Hope supporting families of donors.

In Carbondale:

- "Hoops for Hope" will be held at John A. Logan College on April 26. The Jesse White Tumblers will perform at noon.

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In Champaign-Urbana,

- The Student Nurses' Association at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana will hold its Second Annual Lisa Corsini Memorial 5K Run/Walk on April 12, at Meadowbrook Park at Windsor Road and Vine Street. The Nurses' Association established the walk and ceremony to promote awareness in memory of Corsini, an exchange student from Italy who gave life through organ donation. Registration begins 8 a.m.; the walk/run begins at 9 a.m. Awards and closing ceremonies will take place at 10:30 a.m. Registration is \$25; call 217/239-1650.

In Peoria:

- Donor awareness materials will be available in hospitals, union halls, churches and businesses.
- Bradley University Donor Day will be held April 25, with speakers, donor sign-ups and distribution of green ribbons.

In Randolph County:

- The Randolph County, City Hall and hospitals will display donor awareness banners throughout the month.

In Rockford:

- The Rockford City Council will recognize a "Donate Life" dedication and "pinning" ceremony 6 p.m. April 7 at City Hall.
- Visitors to the Industrial Trade Show at Rockford's Metro Centre on April 15 and 16 can stop by the "Putt for Life" putting green for donor awareness information. On April 16, donation information also will be presented during the Rockford Chamber of Commerce's Council of 100 After Hours from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at the Metro Centre.
- Throughout the month, window and table displays will educate visitors about donation at Cherry Vale Mall food court, Rockford Memorial Hospital, Swedish-American Hospital, Belvidere Chamber of Commerce, Rockford Public Library main branch, McHenry Community College, Provena St. Joseph Hospital in Elgin and Kishwaukee Community Hospital in DeKalb.
- Cherry Vale Mall will also host special displays, a video presentation and speakers at an all-day Donate Life! event from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 26.

In Springfield:

- A health fair will take place on Old Capitol Mall, April 25, 11 a.m.- 2 p.m.. Community Blood Services will sponsor a blood drive and Secretary White will witness signed donor cards. The Jesse White Tumbling Team will perform at noon, and local radio stations will broadcast the day's activities. Other participants include Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network, Heartland Lions Eye Banks, Memorial Medical Center and St. John's Hospital.
- At drivers' license facilities, volunteers will distribute green ribbons that symbolize support for organ and tissue donation.

Bureau County, Carbondale, McLean County, Peoria, Randolph County, Rockford and Springfield have been designated 2003 "Life Goes On" communities through the Illinois Secretary of State Organ/Tissue Donor Program. The "Life Goes On" program supports local committees, organizations and volunteers in coordinating events to promote donor awareness and participation in the state's organ/tissue donor registry, which documents an individual's wishes regarding donation.

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For a full schedule of April events and programs, visit www.giftofhope.org, www.mts-stl.org or www.cyberdriveillinois.com. To request a reference kit on donation, a local program or donor awareness materials, call the Illinois Coalition on Donation at 888/307-DON8.

Organs and tissues from a single donor can help more than 25 individuals. Everyone, no matter how young or old, can be a lifesaver by choosing to be an organ and tissue donor. To become a donor, sign a Uniform Donor Card (such as the card on the back of a driver's license) and, most importantly, inform family members of the decision. In Illinois, a family's consent is required before donation can occur.

The Illinois Coalition is one of more than 45 regional coalitions and 50 national businesses or associations making up the national Coalition on Donation, a not-for-profit alliance stressing the importance of organ and tissue donation through national media and awareness campaigns.

In Illinois, state coalition members include Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network; Mid-America Transplant Services, Illinois Secretary of State Organ/Tissue Donor Awareness Program; the National Kidney Foundation of Illinois; Illinois Eye-Bank, MEBTC; Heartland Lions Eye Bank; American Liver Foundation-Illinois Chapter; American Red Cross-Tissue Services; the Minority Organ/Tissue Transplant Education Program, Chicago Office; Organ Transplant Support, Inc.; the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation; and the Illinois Department of Public Health, Division of Transplantation.

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